

Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. By this amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 2 and 9 are canceled. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 10 are pending.

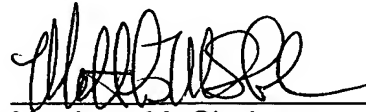
A certified copy of an English translation of German patent application No. 202 19 284.9, filed December 12, 2002 at the German Patent Office, was submitted along with the previous amendment dated September 7, 2006 in order to perfect a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. Applicants believe the claim was perfected, as evidenced by the indication that U.S. patent application publication No. 2004/0004345 (Kayser) was overcome by the amendment. No formal acknowledgment, however, was indicated. Acknowledgment that the claim for priority was in fact perfected is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 9. Therefore, claim 1 should be allowable, as indicated in the Advisory Action and as indicated during a telephone conversation with Examiner Gooden on November 3, 2006. Claims 3-5, 7, and 10 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified patent application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew M. Shaheen', written over a horizontal line.

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